



# COMMUNITY NEWS

Via Linda District

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## Crimes of Opportunity

Are you inadvertently providing opportunities for criminals? Many crimes occur because simple steps have not been taken toward preventing them. Most criminals want easy targets and the ability to go unnoticed. "Target hardening" does not have to be expensive and may discourage a criminal from choosing you for their next victim. It can be as simple as locking a door.

**Vehicle Crimes:** Never leave valuables visible in your car. Always close and lock your windows and doors. If you have a vehicle alarm, make sure it is armed. Park your car in your garage if you have one, and never leave the garage door opener in your vehicle. Consider the use of a "club" or other device as a visible deterrent to auto theft. Consider joining the "Watch your Car" program.

**Residential Crimes:** Focus on Locks, Lighting, and Landscaping. Always keep doors and windows locked. This includes securing patio doors and sliding windows with a dowel or thumb screws in the track. Lighting at night is the number one deterrent to crime. Make sure all exterior lights are working and provide uniform lighting without dark spots. Consider the use of motion sensors. Your front entry light should provide enough light so you can identify someone outside your door. Never open your door to anyone you do not know. Landscaping that covers window could provide a criminal with concealment. Trees should be trimmed so the lowest branches are at least six to eight feet high and shrubs should be no taller than three feet or higher than the window sill. Trim the base in a "V" shape.

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## From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

As mentioned in the main article, the best deterrent to crime is neighbors looking out for each other. By getting to know as many of the neighbors in your community as possible, you learn what is "normal" for your neighborhood. Are your neighbors full or part-time residents? What kind of vehicle does your neighbor drive? Do they have children? Do they have a pool or landscaping service? Knowing the answers to these questions will help you determine what defines "suspicious activity".

A fun and effective way to know your neighbors is by starting or getting involved in our Neighborhood Watch Program. What is Neighborhood Watch?

- Citizens and police working in partnership to reduce crimes and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.
- A cohesive body of citizens addressing issues that concern the entire community.
- Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.

Contact our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Joy Racine at 480-312-2342 for more information on how to start up or locate a Neighborhood Watch in your area.

**Commander Burl Haenel**  
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Close and lock perimeter gates. There have been several burglaries in the City related to alley access. Once a burglar gets into your back yard there is a lot less chance of being seen by a watchful neighbor. SPD offers free security surveys to all residents. Call your crime prevention officer to schedule yours today.

**Personal Safety:** Walk with confidence. Be alert, look around, and be aware of your surroundings. Carry purses and bags close to your body, and never leave them unattended. Have your keys out and ready when walking to your vehicle. If you don't feel comfortable, ask for an escort from security or police. Exercise in highly populated areas. Remember there is safety in numbers. SPD offers free interactive self-awareness classes at least twice a year. Consider enrolling in one to increase your personal safety knowledge.

Always shred your personal documents to help prevent identity theft. SPD hosts at least two shredding events in your part of the City each year. Be aware of scams and frauds. The old adage of "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" is truer now more than ever. A current scam we are seeing is the Grandparent Scam. A call is received from a caller in Canada claiming they are their grandchild, and in need money to get out of jail and get home. There have been at least five Scottsdale residents who have fallen victim to this scam. The average take has been several thousand dollars. Don't fall victim to lottery, found property, and check overpayment schemes. Never give personal information to anyone on the telephone or computer unless you have initiated the contact.

If you are the victim of a crime: *PLEASE* report it. It may be crucial to identifying a crime trend. Resources are allocated based on the number and types of crimes in an area.

Remember as much as you can about the crime by writing it down; this will make you a great witness. The more information you can provide officers, the better chance we have of making an arrest. Keep a record of serial numbers for your important property and put it in a safe place. Take pictures and/or video of valuable jewelry and electronics on an annual basis.

Finally, we strongly recommend participating in the neighborhood watch program. If you do not have a neighborhood watch group in your community, consider starting one.

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There is no better crime deterrent than neighbors looking out for each other. You know (often times better than the police) who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. Please report all suspicious activity; we want to hear from you!

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Kory Sneed at 480-312-5696, email: [ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov), or District 3 Police Aide Terri Terlazzo at 480-312-8292, email: [tterlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:tterlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov).

## Upcoming Scottsdale Events

### Document Shredding/Drug Collection for Disposal:

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon  
Scottsdale Baptist Church, 2500 N. Scottsdale Road

- **Prescription Drug Destruction**
- **Document Shredding**

Cash donations requested. Suggested \$2 per box.  
Contact Officer Jen Wattier at 480-312-0275 or [jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:jwattier@scottsdaleaz.gov).

### Public Safety Day:

Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon  
Coronado High School, 2501 N. 74<sup>th</sup> St (Miller/Oak)

- **Prescription Drug Destruction**
- **Vin Etching**
- **Document Shredding**

Cash donations requested. Suggested \$2 per box.  
Residents and businesses welcome. Truck loads welcome at this event. Contact Officer Abernethy at 480-312-2594 or [cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov).

## Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817